

MANUAL OF THE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF
HARTLAND, VERMONT.

1906.

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Preface.

The production of this Manual has been advised by the members of the First Congregational Church of Hartland to take the place of one adopted in the year 1880. This is an attempt to outline some needful system of conducting the religious and executive life of the Church: First, to give to the Church a Form of Admission, Creed and Covenant which are more in touch with Congregational principles of this present day; Second, to give to the Church a better method of administration which will serve as a practical working system at this special age.

—Adopted April 25, 1905.

The Church acknowledges with gratitude its indebtedness to Rev. I. W. Stuart for his services in preparing and arranging this Manual.

—Nov. 1, 1906.

Historical Sketch.

A brief statement of the beginning and early developments of the First Congregational Church of Hartland, Vermont.

The early records of religious interest and services do not appear on any Church records, but are found in the old town records dating back to May 10, 1779, when under the old regime the Church and town records were one and inseparable in their development.

The first records give an account of a meeting of the freeholders of the Town of Hertford (as Hartland was then called). At this meeting it was voted to ask Mr. Mather Fuller to preach on probation for "ten Sabbaths more." This would clearly indicate that Mr. Fuller had served the town as religious leader previous to the date of this meeting.

From 1779 to 1789 the following ministers were hired by vote of the town: Rev. Isaiah Potter, 1779; Rev. Nathl. Merrill, 1780; Rev. Wait Cornwall, 1785. At this date the Congregational Church had become an independent body and was sufficiently organized in 1789 to call and install Rev. Daniel Breck as their pastor. It was at this same time that there began to be differences of belief, and certain of the inhabitants of the town had their Church tax abated because they were attending churches of other denominations, in other towns. But that the Congre-

gational faith was still the faith of the majority is shown by the fact that the same Daniel Breck was also called by vote of the town to be its minister.

The previous leaders of religious influence now became in most cases prominent leaders in the First Congregational Church of Hartland, or the Church of Christ as it was then called, revealing the fact that the Church really finds its beginning in the general foundation laid by the freeholders in the years between 1767 and 1789. Among the names we find Eli Willard, James, Thomas and Jeremiah Richardson, Paul Spooner, Moses Webster, Thomas Lawton, Zebulon Lee and others whom lack of space forbids our mention.

Rev. Daniel Breck served the Church from 1789 to 1795. He was succeeded by Dr. Samuel Cheever who served from 1797 to 1804. From 1805 to 1820 the Church was in a much broken condition and services were irregular. At this latter date interest revived and surrounding pastors supplied the Church and administered communion quite constantly until 1828 when the strength and stability of the Church revealed itself in calling Rev. Samuel Delano to become their pastor. He remained with the Church until 1838, and under his skilful management the Church home was changed from the center of the town to the present location and the Brick Church was built. At this same time the Church took advantage of the Act of Legislature of October 26,

1797, and on January 15, 1828, organized the "First Congregational Society of Hartland, Vermont," to hold and manage the property of the Church. From this date the Church has seldom been without a pastor and stated services. The following list of names of pastors who have served the Church since Rev. Mr. Delano form an almost unbroken chain of service and prosperity:

- Rev. E. H. Squier, 1846-1852.
- Rev. Samuel Delano, 1852-1856.
- Rev. J. F. Blake, 1857.
- Rev. H. Rood, 1858-1864.
- Rev. Chas. W. Clark, 1864-1869.
- Rev. J. Q. Bittenger, 1869-1874.
- Rev. R. D. Miller, 1875-1879.
- Rev. C. M. Winch, 1880-1882.
- Rev. Chas. Scott, 1882-1884.
- Rev. W. L. Noyes, 1884-1888.
- Rev. Allen Hazen, D. D., 1889-1893.
- Rev. E. W. Sturtevant, 1893-1896.
- Rev. S. E. Macgeehon, 1897-1900.
- Rev. Levi Wild, 1900-1901.
- Rev. Wilbur Rand, 1902-1903.
- Rev. I. W. Stuart, 1903-1906.
- Rev. C. O. Gill, 1906—

*Form of Admission.

Dearly Beloved:—

As you are about to declare your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and enter His visible church, let your prayer go up with ours that you may, out of a devout and honest heart, witness a good confession to the glory of His name.

(Prayer.)

In the presence of this assembly, and before the Judge of all men, you do now humbly and sincerely confess your faith in the one only living and true God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, in Jesus Christ His Son, the Word made flesh, and in the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, evermore present in the church to regenerate and sanctify the soul.

Sincerely repenting of all sin you make this confession of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as He is revealed in the Scriptures, and desiring to be numbered with His disciples, you will now be baptized in this faith.

(Baptism will here be administered.)

(To those who were baptized in infancy.)

When as yet in childhood, you were consecrated to God in this same ordinance of baptism by your

*This Church accepts for substance of doctrine the creed known as the "Congregational Creed of 1883."

Christian parents, who solemnly promised in their fellowship with the church to bring you up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Thankfully acknowledging your indebtedness to this faith and Christian nurture in which you have been trained, you accept the seal of the covenant by which you were consecrated as the symbol of your present faith.

COVENANT.

In humble dependence upon God you now consecrate yourself to His worship and service, desiring to be His forever. Abiding henceforth in Jesus Christ you will strive to cultivate within you the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; and you enter into covenant with this church to join in its work, ordinances and worship, to submit to its discipline, to labor and pray for its growth, purity and peace, and to walk with its members in love and faithfulness.

Do you thus covenant? *Ans.* I do.

(To those who join by letter.)

Christian Friend:—

Holding still the faith in which you have already been united with the church of Christ from which you have come to us with a letter of commendation, you declare your readiness to assume all the obligations that are necessarily involved in your becoming

a member of this church, promising to sustain and to submit to its fraternal discipline, to promote its order, piety and harmony, to assist in the maintenance of its ordinances, to endeavor to fulfil all the duties which may be incumbent on you in our communion.

(Here the church will rise.)

In consequence of these professions and promises, we cordially receive you to the communion of this church. We welcome you to the labors and the joys, to the self-denials and the rewards of the Master's service.

We break with you this bread of life.

We share with you this cup of blessing.

We ask your aid in winning others to Christ ; and on our part we promise to hold your peace and welfare as our own, and in all ways, so far as in us lies, to seek your growth in knowledge and in grace so long as you shall continue with us.

The Lord bless you and keep you ; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you ; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

And now unto him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, world without end. Amen.

Method of Administration.

ARTICLE I.

NAME OF CHURCH.

The official and incorporate title of this Church shall be The First Congregational Church of Hartland, Vermont.

ARTICLE II.

FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

This Church is Congregational in its form of government inasmuch as:—

Section (a). It recognizes the equality of all its members in the privilege of its communion unless they have been forfeited and withdrawn by regular process.

Section (b). It maintains its independence in the management of its internal affairs, deeming itself competent under Christ to control its individual discipline and order of worship.

Section (c). It acknowledges the fellowship of sister Churches seeking their aid in advisory councils, and cherishing a tender and practical interest in their prosperity and peace. We believe these principles find a basis in the New Testament and the practice of Apostolic Churches.

ARTICLE III.

AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS.

In connection with the general organization of the Church there shall be the following auxiliaries: Sunday School, Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, Junior Society of Christian Endeavor, Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society and Ladies' Benevolent Society. Such other auxiliaries may be formed from time to time as may be deemed expedient.

ARTICLE IV.

MEMBERSHIP.

Section (a). All persons residing in this community may become members of this Church upon giving creditable evidence of Christian living and who assent to its Confession of Faith and Covenant.

Section (b). Persons desirous of becoming members of this Church, upon confession of their faith, shall be examined orally or by written statement of their Christian experience in the presence of a part or the whole of the Standing Committee on Reception of Members at a meeting called for this purpose. The committee shall report the results of such examination to the Church at its regular quarterly business meeting, or at the preparatory meeting held previous to Communion Sunday. If this report is approved by vote of the Church, such candidates shall be received into fellowship on Commu-

nion Sunday by publicly assenting to the Confession of Faith and entering into Covenant.

Section (c). Members of other Churches bringing letters of dismission and recommendation, and applying for admission, may be received by vote of the Church and by publicly assenting to the Confession of Faith and Covenant. The Church, however, reserves the right and privilege to seek acquaintance with the Christian life of such applicant members by asking a statement of the development of their Christian life.

Section (d). Letters of dismission and recommendation shall be given by vote of the Church to all members in good and regular standing who may desire them. Members who remove their residence beyond the reach of this Church should, if practical, at once transfer their relation to some other Church.

Section (e). The Church shall at its annual meeting investigate its list of members and revise the same by suspending : First, such members as have not responded in person or by letter for three successive years to its roll-call ; second, any members who have wilfully absented themselves from the Church and Communion for one year, and when interviewed by the Standing Committee fail to give a satisfactory reason for such absence. After two years of such absence, members may be dropped without further action.

ARTICLE V.

OFFICERS AND HOW CHOSEN.

Section (a). The officers of this Church shall be : a Pastor, two or more Deacons, a Clerk and Treasurer, an Auditor, a Sunday School Superintendent, a Standing Committee and a Church Council, elected by ballot at the annual business meeting by a majority vote, unless otherwise provided.

Section (b). The Pastor shall be chosen at any business meeting by a two-thirds vote of the Church, after being recommended by a committee composed of the Standing Committee of the Church, and such members of the Society as may be chosen for the purpose. The Pastor shall perform the functions pertaining to his office, and shall be moderator of all meetings of the Church except when matters pertaining to him personally are considered.

Section (c). Deacons shall be chosen to serve for such a time as the Church may vote, and shall perform the customary duties of the office.

Section (d). The Clerk and Treasurer shall be chosen for one year, and shall keep proper and accurate records of the Church affairs; shall receive and safely keep the money of the Church, including funds raised for its benevolences, and shall pay out the same as voted by the Church.

Section (e). The Auditor shall be chosen for one year and shall audit the accounts of the Treasurer

before the annual business meeting, and report to that meeting.

Section (f). The Sunday School Superintendent shall be chosen for one year. It shall be his duty to exercise a careful oversight of all Sunday School work of the Church.

Section (g). The Standing Committee shall consist of the Pastor, Deacons, and such other members as the Church may choose for one year. It shall be the duty of this committee to examine all candidates for membership and make proper recommendations to the Church; to interview or communicate with any members who may be subject to suspension or discipline and report to the Church; and to have general oversight of the spiritual affairs of the Church.

Section (h). The Church Council shall consist of all officers of the Church, and shall meet as occasion may demand. It shall act for the Church on all ordinary business during the interim between the quarterly business meetings, and report to each of such meetings.

Section (i). Any offices becoming vacant during the year may be filled by vote of the Church at the quarterly meeting following the vacancy, and such officers shall serve until the next annual meeting.

Section (j). Parliamentary law shall govern all business meetings.

ARTICLE VI.

MEETINGS.

Section (a). Meetings for public worship shall be held on the Sabbath as the Church may direct.

Section (b). The sacrament of the Lord's Supper shall be usually administered on the Sunday following the first Tuesday of January, April, July and October. The preparatory service shall be held at the close of the quarterly business meeting preceding.

Section (c). The weekly Church prayer meeting shall usually be held on Wednesday evening of each week.

Section (d). There shall be a quarterly business meeting held on the first Tuesday of January, April, July and October. The January meeting shall be the annual meeting for the election of officers. Notice of these meetings shall be given from the pulpit on the two preceding Sundays.

Section (e). The order of the annual meeting shall be as follows: 1. Called to order by Pastor. 2. Prayer and song. 3. Roll-call of members. 4. Reports from officers in turn—*a* Pastor, *b* Deacons, *c* Clerk and Treasurer, *d* Auditor, *e* Sunday School Superintendent, *f* Standing Committee. 5. Reports from auxiliary organizations: *a* Sunday School officers and teachers, *b* Young People's Soci-

ety of Christian Endeavor, *c* Junior Society of Christian Endeavor, *d* Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society, *e* Ladies' Aid Society, *f* any other existing auxiliaries. 6. Election of officers: *a* Clerk and Treasurer, *b* Deacons, *c* Auditor, *d* Sunday School Supt., *e* Members of Standing Committees, *f* any others necessary. 7. Social half hour. 8. Benevolences. 9. New Business. 10. Conference on Work. 11. Preparatory Service. 12. Adjournment.

Section (f). The order of the other three quarterly business meetings shall be the same as for the annual meeting, omitting the roll-call and the election of officers, unless in the latter case vacancies exist.

Section (g). Seven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE VII.

DELEGATES AND THEIR REPORTS.

Delegates to councils and other religious meetings are expected to report promptly on their return at such times as may be arranged. If unable to attend they are expected to find substitutes.

ARTICLE VIII.

BENEVOLENCES OF THE CHURCH.

The Church shall each year contribute to at least four outside benevolences, the amounts and objects to be decided upon at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE IX.

DISCIPLINE.

Section (a). Should any unhappy differences arise between members, the aggrieved member shall follow in a tender spirit the rules given by our Lord in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew.

Section (b). Should any case of gross breach of covenant or public scandal occur, the standing committee, as Christian brethren, shall endeavor to remove the offence, and if such efforts fail, shall report the case to the Church.

Section (c). In case of grave difficulty the Church will be ready, if requested, to take advice of a mutual council.

Section (d). Members suspended under the provisions of Art. 4, Sec. (e), may be dropped from the roll after one year of suspension unless they conform to their covenant.

ARTICLE X.

AMENDMENTS.

These methods of procedure may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present at an annual or quarterly business meeting, after such amendment has been proposed and discussed at a previous quarterly meeting.

Officers of the Church.

Pastor,	Rev. C. O. Gill
Clerk,	Mrs. J. A. McArthur
Assistant Clerk,	J. G. Underwood
Treasurer,	Mrs. J. A. McArthur
Deacons,	H. T. Fletcher, John P. Webster
Auditor,	Miss Clara A. Lamb
Sunday School Superintendent,	John P. Webster
Standing Committee,	Rev. I. W. Stuart, Mrs. I. W. Stuart, Deacon Fletcher, Deacon Webster, Mrs. John P. Webster, Mrs. E. S. Ainsworth.

Resident Members.

November 1, 1906.

MALE.

John P. Webster	Fred B. Harlow
John P. Richardson	Rev. Irving W. Stuart
Rev. E. W. Sturtevant	Fred B. Harlow, Jr.
Henry T. Fletcher	Thomas J. Chase
Lawrence W. Smith	Jay G. Underwood
Daniel C. Webster	Arthur Chase
R. Hiram Walker	Leonard W. McArthur

FEMALE.

Mrs. B. F. Labaree	Mrs. Fannie R. Sturtevant
Mrs. Lucy Lamb	Mrs. George Jones
Miss Lizzie Lamb	Miss Marion Webster
Miss Elizabeth Harlow	Mrs. Ellen B. Ketchum
Mrs. Phylura Bond	Mrs. Pearl E. Underwood
Miss Elizabeth Bates	Mrs. Louise R. Sturtevant
Mrs. Mary S. McArthur	Mrs. Thomas J. Chase
Mrs. Cora McA. Webster	Mrs. Fred B. Harlow
Mrs. Mary R. Webster	Mrs. I. W. Stuart

Mrs. James Bates	Miss Maud Goss
Mrs. Augusta Bates	Miss Julia Chase
Mrs. Hattie Ainsworth	Miss Mildred Lobdell
Miss Mary Webster	Miss Julia Hadley
Mrs. Julius Lamb	Miss Blanche Lobdell
Miss Clara Lamb	Miss Ruth Lobdell
Mrs. W. A. J. Turner	Mrs. George L. Hadley
Mrs. Asa Merritt	Mrs. Mary E. Britton
Mrs. Ida Metz Reed	Miss Helen F. Britton
Mrs. Marion M. Headle	Mrs. Allan W. Martin
Miss Jessie Penniman	Mrs. R. Hiram Walker
Mrs. Nettie Sturtevant	Miss Sarah E. Webster
Mrs. Ellen G. Smith	Miss Abbie Hoisington
Miss Maud M. Martin	Mrs. Lucia W. Webster
Mrs. Minnie B. McArthur	

Non-Resident Members.

MALE.

John C. Miller, Melrose Highlands, Mass.
 Edwin Hoisington, West Roxbury, Mass.
 Arthur Spear, Windsor, Vt.

FEMALE.

Mrs. Mary B. Walker, Bellows Falls, Vt.
 Mrs. Edwin Hoisington, West Roxbury, Mass.
 Mrs. Mary B. Wilder, 20 Arlington Ave., Westmont,
 Montreal, P. Q.
 Mrs. Julia G. Estabrook, 33 Cosgrove St. Lowell, Mass
 Mrs. Abijah Russell, Ballardvale, Mass.
 Mrs. Maud H. Spear, Woodstock, Vt.
 Miss Minnie Barbour, Montpelier, Vt.
 Mrs. Lucy Spear, Windsor, Vt.
 Mrs. H. L. Dickinson Elder, W. R. Junction, Vt.
 Mrs. Ellen B. Gilson, Montpelier, Vt.

Form of Bequest.

I give and bequeath to the "First Congregational Society of Hartland, Vermont, organized January 15, 1828," the sum of \$ _____

(Signed) _____

Members and friends are urged to remember this Society when arranging their legacies. It is extremely desirable that a fund be thus established the interest from which shall be large enough to pay the annual cost of maintaining our property. When making such legacies and devises to this Society, care should be taken to use the entire name of the Society, as follows: "FIRST CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY OF HARTLAND, VT."

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